

PRI Symposium Biographies

Passaic River Symposium Biographies

Carol Johnston

Carol Johnston is the Riverfront Projects Manager for the Ironbound Community Corporation. The cleanup of the Passaic River plus the preservation of land along the River for public purposes have been her principle responsibilities over the past ten years. Through an alliance with the City of Newark and the County of Essex, 12 acres of parkland and athletic fields were created on the Ironbound side of the River. Fostering community participation in these projects has been one of her major priorities. Along with the Environmental Protection Agency, the community led the effort to ensure community benefits were part of the Passaic River Removal Action at the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site. She will continue to work with local, State and Federal partners to ensure that the remaining 17 miles of the Passaic River are cleaned and eventually restored to health.

Elizabeth Butler

Elizabeth Butler is a Remedial Project Manager for the Environmental Protection Agency. She has been doing oversight of cleanups at EPA for 15 years, including spending a year working on the World Trade Center Residential Cleanup Program. Since 2003, she's worked on various aspects of the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site from oversight of the ongoing activities associated with the remedy at the 80 Lister Avenue site in Newark, to enforcement related to the Passaic River Study, to oversight of the Newark Bay Study, and most recently to oversight of the Phase 1 Passaic River Removal Action. One of her most rewarding experiences was working with the members of the Passaic River Community Advisory Group on the Removal Action and the positive outcomes which resulted from that relationship.

David Kluesner

David Kluesner leads the Community Affairs Team for EPA Region 2. David works on a number of contaminated sediment sites in New York and New Jersey in his role as a community involvement coordinator. Involving communities in important decisions on site cleanup is something that David has done throughout his 25 years with EPA. Early in David's career as a Remedial Project Manager in EPA's Atlanta office David actively engaged communities at complex sites where community input was key to reaching consensus and sound decisions on site cleanups. David has worked on the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site since 2003, somewhat reluctantly at first upon learning of the complexity of the problems and work needed to engage more than 2 million residents in the project area. But since 2003 David has come to view his work on the Passaic River cleanup as one of the most challenging, important and rewarding projects.